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THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL AND THE EVENING BULLETIN

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November 6, 1947

Rear Admiral Roscoe N. Hillenkoetter
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

I am sending herewith an editorial and a series of three articles from one of our Washington correspondents on the general subject of "security risk" and loyalty dismissals from the Federal government.

The second and third articles, I believe, will be of interest to you. I am sending all three, and the editorial, to indicate that CIA was not exclusively singled out for comment.

In general, I believe, our papers have been sensitive to CIA's obvious and proper wish to keep out of print. Nor have these papers changed their view that the Agency has work of great importance to do, and generally deserves the support of the public and the press.

On the other hand, we do have, as I believe you have, a sincere interest in seeing that the treatment which any government agency, and particularly CIA, accords its employees is as fair and as reasonable as possible. Any other course, I am sure you will agree, will only complicate the difficult problems of recruitment which your Agency and others have these days.

We believe, in all sincerity, that CIA's own internal procedures for dealing with so-called "security risk" cases in FBIB could be improved. In this connection, it is interesting to observe what the Navy Department has done in somewhat similar cases. Although empowered by law to make summary dismissals, the Department has chosen to comply with the essential provisions of the President's Executive Order of early this year. That is, the Department has not only established review boards, but it has allowed the accused to have a statement of charges, to appear personally before the board, to be represented by counsel, and to produce witnesses in their own behalf.

It seems to us that when the security problems of your Agency are taken

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realistically into account, such a procedure also is feasible within CIA. These are the thoughts we had specifically in mind in writing the editorial which is enclosed with this letter.

You may believe us to be seriously in error. If so, and if you have any wish to present an opposing view or any additional facts, we would be happy to have them, either for publication or for off-the-record guidance. We would be glad to have a letter, or to send Harold Graves, the Evening Bulletin correspondent, to see you if you do have any interest in the matter.

I remember and appreciate the courtesy of the interview which you allowed Mr. Graves and me last spring, and hope to have the privilege of visiting you again on some future visit to Washington.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Sevellon Brown 3rd

SB:B

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